

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08699 291601Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
IO-13 /072 W

-----291739Z 022060 /43

R 291428Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4250
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS PINS, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: RAKAH DROPS UNITED FRONT TACTICS FOR KNESSET ELECTION

REF: TEL AVIV 8613

1. NAWWAF MASALHA OF HISTADRUT ARAB DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT NEWLY ELECTED RAKAH POLITBUREAU (REFTEL) DECIDED TO DROP UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT TACTIC FOR FORTHCOMING KNESSET ELECTION. ACCORDING TO PRESENT ESTIMATES RAKAH WILL GET ENOUGH VOTES TO ENTITLE IT TO SEVEN KNESSET SEATS, OF WHICH FOUR HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN EARMARKED FOR JEWISH MEMBERS AND THREE FOR ARAB MEMBERS-- WITH ONE OF THESE LATTER SEATS POSSIBLY GOING TO A DRUSE OR BEDOUIN. MASALHA CLAIMED THAT DROPPING OF THE UNITED FRONT WAS AT THE INSISTENCE OF SECRETARY GENERAL MEIR WILNER AFTER JEWISH LEFT-WING ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE BLACK PANTHERS AND MOKED HAD REJECTED HIS APPEAL FOR A COMMON LIST AT THE RECENT RAKAH CONGRESS.

2. ACCORDING TO MASALHA, THE DECISION BY RAKAH NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08699 291601Z

TO FORM A UNITED FRONT AND THE PRESENT LIKELIHOOD THAT MUNICIPAL AND KNESSET ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD SEPARATELY COULD AID THE MODERATE ANTI-RAKAH ARAB FORCES, WHO ARE NOW SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE LIST LABELED "CIRCLE FOR CHANGE AND COEXISTENCE" WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOR PARTY. THE SEPARATION OF MUNICIPAL AND KNESSET

ELECTIONS WILL MEANKZYAT LOCAL ARAB COUNCIL CHAIRMEN
AND MAYORS OF ARAB CITIES WILL NOT

BE EXERTING PRO-RAKAH (TRADE-OFF) PRESSURES
ON ARAB VOTERS, SINCE THEY THEMSELVES WILL NOT BE UP
FOR ELECTION. AND IN THE ABSENCE OF A UNITED FRONT,
MASALHA BELIEVES, THE MODERATE LABOR-AFFILIATED LIST
WILL HAVE IMPROVED CHANCES TO COMPETE FOR THOSE ARAB
VOTERS WHO REMAIN RELUCTANT TO VOTE COMMUNIST AND WHO
WILL BASE THEIR CHOICE ON LOCAL AND FAMILY LOYALTIES.

3. MASALHA ESTIMATES THAT THE CIRCLE FOR CHANGE AND
CO-EXISTENCE TO BE HEADED BY MACHMUD ABASSI, AN ARAB
NEWSPAPER EDITOR, MIGHT ATTRACT 25,000 TO 30,000 VOTES.
THIS WOULD ENTITLE THE GROUP TO TWO OR THREE KNESSET
SEATS. MASALHA HIMSELF EXPECTS TO BE ONE OF THE CIRCLE'S
KNESSET CANDIDATES.

4. COMMENT: THERE WERE, APPARENTLY, INSUPERABLE
OBSTACLES TO THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED FRONT BETWEEN
RAKAH ON THE ONE HAND AND VARIOUS JEWISH LEFTIST
ELEMENTS (SUCH AS MOKED, INDEPENDENT SOCIALISTS, SOME
MAPAMNIKS, URI AVNERI, AND THE BLACK PANTHERS) ON
THE OTHER, AND THIS COMES AS NO SURPRISE. IT WOULD
SEEM THAT NEITHER SIDE STOOD TO GAIN SUFFICIENT VOTES
IN RETURN FOR COMPROMISING THEIR POSITIONS. AS FOR
THE LABOR PARTY, WHOSE LEADERS FREELY CONCEDE THAT
THEY HAVE NOT PAID ENOUGH ATTENTION TO ISRAEL'S ARABS,
THE RAKAH ABANDONMENT OF THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC MAY
OFFER A RAY OF HOPE FOR THEIR LABOR-AFFILIATED ARAB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08699 291601Z

LISTS IN THE UPCOMING CONTEST AGAINST RAKAH.
BUT WITH OR WITHOUT A UNITED FRONT, RAKAH IS STILL
EXPECTED TO INCREASE ITS CURRENT KNESSET STRENGTH
FROM FOUR TO ABOUT SEVEN.
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY MEETINGS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY ELECTIONS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV08699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760475-0241
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976125/aaaaaejo.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 8613
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAKAH DROPS UNITED FRONT TACTICS FOR KNESSET ELECTION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, RAKAH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006